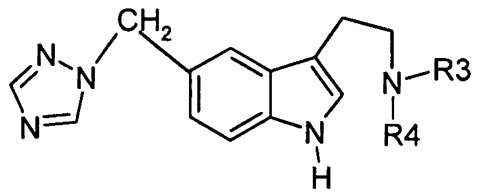
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

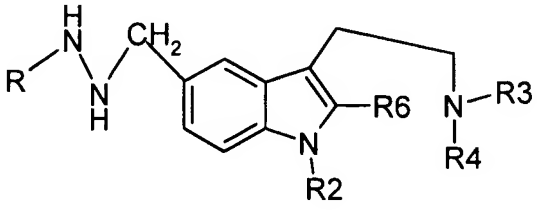
1. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacture of a 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl compound of the formula [A] or a salt thereof,



[A]

wherein each of R3 and R4 is independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl with up to and including maximally 7 carbon atoms, said process comprising the steps of:

reacting with a 1,2,4-triazolyl forming reagent a hydrazine compound of the formula [B] or a salt thereof,



[B]

wherein R is hydrogen or acyl, R2 is hydrogen or a protecting group, each of R3 and R4 is independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl with up to and including maximally 7 carbon atoms, and R6 is hydrogen ~~or a group COOR7, with R7 being hydrogen or one equivalent of a cation or a suitable hydrocarbon residue~~, further wherein, if R is acyl in formula [B], optionally removing an acyl group R before reacting the compound of the formula [B] with the 1,2,4-triazolyl

forming reagent, removing any protecting group R2 and removing any group COOR7 to produce the compound of the formula [A], or a salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled) ~~The process according to claim 1 wherein R6 is hydrogen.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl compound of the formula [A] is Rizatriptan (3-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)indole).

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising an additional step selected the group consisting of (a) converting a salt of a resulting compound of the formula [A] into a free form of a compound of the formula [A], (b) converting a resulting free form of a compound of the formula [A] into a salt, and (c) converting a salt of a compound of the formula [A] into a different salt of a compound of the formula [A].

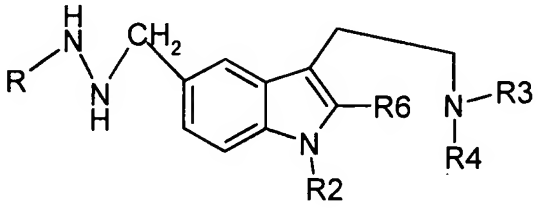
5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, where R in the compound of formula [B] is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, formyl and C_2-C_7alkanoyl, and wherein if C_2-C_7alkanoyl is present, it is hydrolytically removed prior to the reaction with the 1,2,4-triazolyl forming reagent, and where in each of formulae [A] and [B], each of R3 and R4 is methyl and the compound of the formula [A] is produced in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, where the 1,2,4-triazolyl forming reagent is selected from the group consisting of 1,3,5-triazine, formamidine, formamidinium salts ~~and derivatives~~, and formamide.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein, prior to the reaction with the 1,2,4-triazolyl forming reagent, the compound of the formula [B] as defined in claim 1 is reacted with 1 or 2 equivalents of a protic acid to convert it into its mono- or diammonium salt, and then purified by crystallization or recrystallization.

Claims 8-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula [B] or a salt thereof comprising

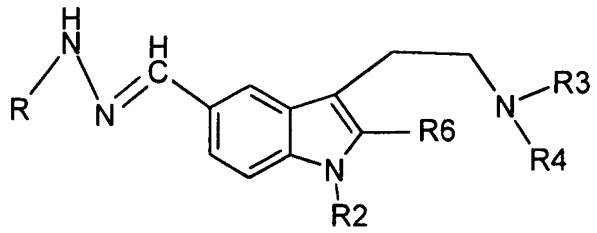


[B]

wherein:

R is hydrogen or acyl, R2 is hydrogen or a protecting group, each of R3 and R4 is independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl with up to an including maximally 7 carbon atoms, and R6 is hydrogen ~~or a group COOR7, with R7 being hydrogen or one equivalent of a cation or a suitable hydrocarbon residue~~.

25. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula [D] or a salt thereof comprising

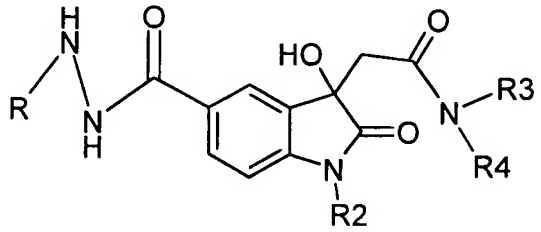


[D]

wherein:

R is hydrogen or acyl, R2 is hydrogen or a protecting group, each of R3 and R4 is independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl with up to an including maximally 7 carbon atoms, and R6 is hydrogen or COOR7, with R7 being hydrogen or one equivalent of a cation or a suitable hydrocarbon residue.

26. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula [C] or a salt thereof comprising



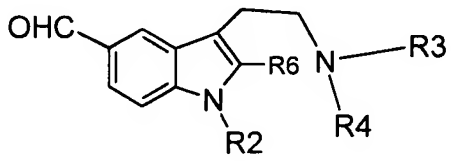
[C]

wherein:

R is hydrogen, R2 is hydrogen or a protecting group, each of R3 and R4 is independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl with up to an including maximally 7 carbon atoms.

27. (Withdrawn) The compound of the formula [C] according to claim 26, wherein each of R3 and R4 is methyl.

28. (Withdrawn) An acid addition salt of a compound of formula [O] or a salt thereof comprising



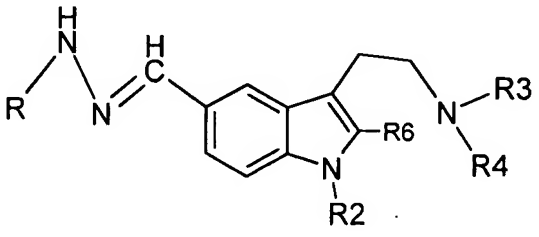
[O]

wherein:

R2 is hydrogen or a protecting group, each of R3 and R4 is independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl with up to an including maximally 7 carbon atoms, R6 is hydrogen or COOR7, with R7 being hydrogen or one equivalent of a cation or a suitable hydrocarbon residue, further wherein said protic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen halide, sulphuric acid, sulphonic acid and a carboxylic acid.

Claim 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula [B] or a salt thereof is obtained by reducing a compound of the formula [D] or a salt thereof,

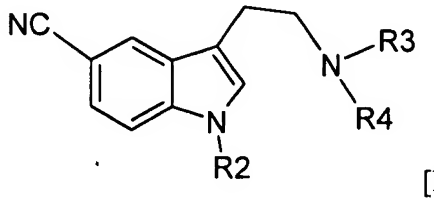


[D]

wherein R, R2, R3, R4 and R6 are defined as in claim 1~~, and if residue R6 is COOR7, optionally converting residue R6 into hydrogen~~.

31. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 30, wherein R is hydrogen or an alkanoyl with up to and including maximally 7 carbon atoms, further wherein each of R3 and R4 is methyl.

32. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) The process of claim 30, wherein the compound of formula [D] or salt thereof~~, wherein R6 is a hydrogen,~~ is obtained by reacting under reductive conditions a compound of the formula [E] or a salt thereof,



[E]

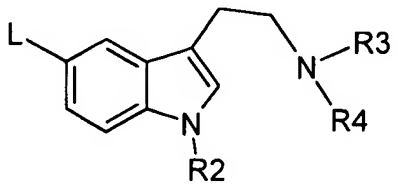
with a hydrazine compound of the formula [F] or a salt thereof,

$$R\text{-}NH\text{-}NH_2 \quad [F]$$

wherein R, R2, R3 and R4 are defined as in claim 30.

33. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 32, wherein R is hydrogen or an alkanoyl with up to and including maximally 7 carbon atoms, and each of R3 and R4 is methyl.

34. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 32, wherein the compound of the formula [E] is obtained by reacting with a cyanide salt, optionally in the presence of a catalyst, a compound of the formula [G] or a salt thereof,

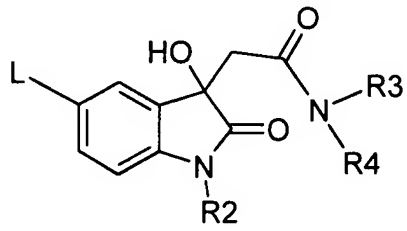


[G]

wherein R2, R3 and R4 are as defined in claim 33, and L is selected from the group consisting of halogen, unsubstituted and substituted alkanesulfonyloxy and unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyloxy.

35. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 34, wherein the compound of the formula [G] or salt thereof is obtained by:

(a) reducing in the presence of borane a compound of the formula [H] or a salt thereof,



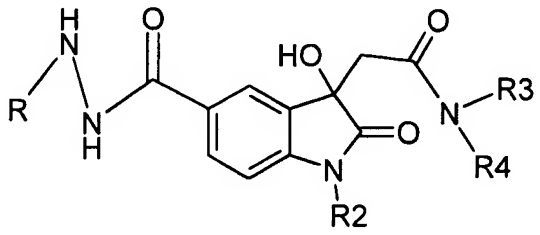
[H]

wherein R2, R3, R4 and L are as defined in claim 34, and

(b) subjecting the resulting product(s) to removal of borane from any amino borane intermediates and to a subsequent oxidation/de-hydrogenation with an oxidant to thereby yield the compound of the formula [G] or salt thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula [B] or salt thereof is obtained by:

(a) reducing in the presence of borane a compound of the formula [C] or a salt thereof,

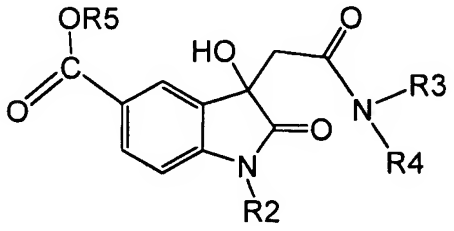


[C]

wherein R, R2, R3 and R4 are defined as in claim 1, and

(b) subjecting the resulting product(s) to removal of borane from any amino borane intermediates and to a subsequent oxidation/de-hydrogenation with an oxidant to yield the compound of the formula [B] or a salt thereof.

37. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 36, wherein the compound of formula [C] or salt thereof is obtained by reacting a compound of the formula [N] or a salt thereof,



[N]

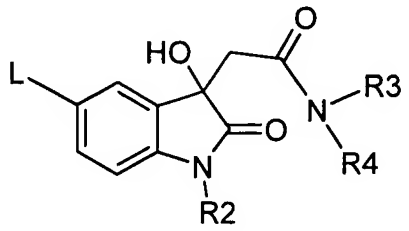
with a hydrazine of the formula [F] or a salt thereof,

$$R\text{-}NH\text{-}NH_2 \qquad [F]$$

wherein R, R2, R3 and R4 are defined as in claim 36, and R5 is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl.

38. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 37, wherein R5 in formula [N] is an alkyl with up to and including maximally 7 carbon atoms, and/or R in formula [F] is hydrogen.

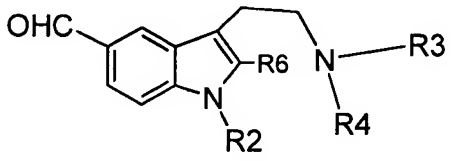
39. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 37, wherein the compound of the formula [N] is obtained by reacting a compound of the formula [H] or a salt thereof



[H]

with carbon monoxide in the presence of a corresponding alcohol R5-OH, a catalyst and a tertiary nitrogen base, wherein R2, R3, R4 and R5 are as defined in claim 37 and L is selected from the group consisting of halogen, unsubstituted and substituted alkanesulfonyloxy and unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyloxy

40. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 30, wherein the compound of formula [B] or salt thereof is obtained by reacting an aldehyde of the formula [O] or a salt thereof,



[O]

with a hydrazine compound of the formula [F] or a salt thereof,

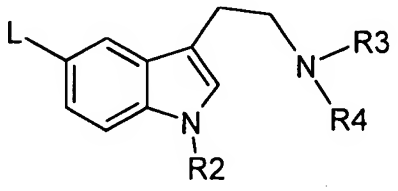
$$R\text{-}NH\text{-}NH_2 \qquad [F]$$

wherein R, R2, R3, R4 and R6 are defined as in claim 30~~, and, if R6 is COOR7, optionally converting R6 into hydrogen~~.

41. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, formyl and C_2-C_7alkanoyl, R2 is a protecting group or hydrogen, and each of R3 and R4 are methyl.

42. (Cancelled) ~~The process according to claim 40, wherein residue R6 is hydrogen.~~

43. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) The process according to claim ~~42~~ 41, where the compound of the formula [O] or salt thereof is obtained by reacting a compound of the formula [G] or a salt thereof,



[G]

first with a lithium alkyl compound to form a lithio derivative and then with DMF or triethyl formate to obtain a corresponding compound of the formula [O] or a salt thereof after hydrolysis, wherein each of R2, R3 and R4 is as defined in claim ~~42~~ 41 and L is halogen.

44. (Cancelled) ~~The process according to claim 40, wherein R6 of the compound of the formula [O] is COOR7, said process further comprising the steps of converting R6 to hydrogen, converting the compound of the formula [O] into an acid addition salt with a protic acid, and purifying the acid addition salt by crystallization or recrystallization prior to the reaction with the hydrazine compound, wherein said protic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen halide, sulphuric acid, sulphonic acid, and a carboxylic acid.~~